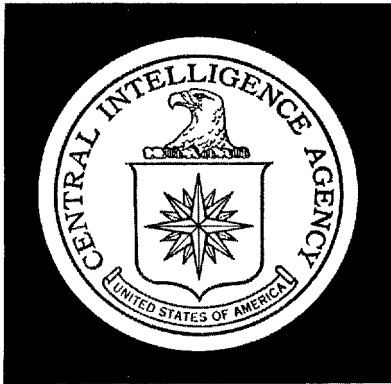


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USSR: The naming of Marshal Grechko as Soviet defense minister has cleared the way for a series of further appointments to the Soviet high command, whose rejuvenation is long overdue.

The first step has been the advancement of three relatively young Soviet generals within the Defense Ministry. Army General Ivan Yakubovsky, 54, former commander of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and Kiev Military District, has been promoted to marshal of the Soviet Union and first deputy defense minister, and probably will take over the Warsaw Pact command vacated by Grechko.

Other changes include the naming of the former Leningrad Military District commander, Sergey Sokolov, 55, to the post of first deputy defense minister, and the Far East Military District commander Ivan Pavlovsky, 57, to the post of deputy defense minister. Both men were also promoted to the rank of general of the army. By virtue of his new title as first deputy defense minister, Sokolov may be replacing the present chief of the general staff, Marshal Matvey Zakharov, who is in his late 60s and has periodically been reported in poor health.

Other personnel appointments among the top Soviet military leadership will probably follow in the near future. Realignment of the military hierarchy would probably have taken place in any case in connection with the USSR's 50th Anniversary ceremonies next fall, but has been advanced by Marshal Malinovsky's death.

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Communist China - USSR: A Chinese delegation has arrived in Moscow to begin talks on the annual Sino-Soviet trade agreement, about two months later than usual. [redacted] Soviet officials expect trade in 1967 to be about the same as in 1966--an estimated \$400 million. China has already reached agreements for 1967 with Rumania, Bulgaria, North Vietnam, and Cuba but not with other Communist countries. [redacted]

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